N°9.

ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION and ENQUIRY,
CONCERNING
MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL,

Given to the

Miniſters, Church-Wardens, and Sideſmen,

Of every PARISH within the

Dioceſe of *LINCOLN*,

At the Triennial

VISITATION
OF THE

Right Reverend FATHER in GOD,

JOHN,

Lord Biſhop of that DIOCESE,

In the Year of our LORD, M.DCC.XLIX.

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Viston

Aug.t 23

The CHARGE *of the* Church-Wardens *and* Sideſmen.

HAVING received a Copy of this Book, you are required to repair to your Miniſter, to hear all the Articles deliberately read over to you; duly and diligently to conſider them; and by his Advice, (and, if need be, with his Concurrence) to preſent all and every ſuch Diſorders in Things and Perſons, as are the Subjects of theſe Enquiries: And herein you are to deal Uprightly and Impartially, all Affection and Favour, all Hatred and Malice, all Hope of Reward, or Fear of Diſpleaſure, ſet aſide; ſigning ſuch your Preſentments with your own Hands. For know aſſuredly, that as the Toleration of public Diſorders in any Pariſh, is hurtful to the Government in Church and State, an Hindrance to Religion, and highly offenſive to Almighty GOD, and as the faithful Diſcharge of your Office, is the chief Means whereby ſuch Diſorders may have their timely Check and Correction; ſo, if you wilfully refuſe, or neglect to do your Duty, the Guilt and Scandal of the Diſorders continuing and increaſing under your Connivance, muſt chiefly reſt on you.

The Church-Wardens *OATH.*

YOU ſhall ſwear, truly and faithfully to preſent ſuch Things and Perſons of your Pariſh, as you know to be preſentable by theſe Articles;

So help you GOD.

WE do not by Virtue of this Oath require or expect, that the Miniſter, or Curate, or any one of the Church-wardens or Sideſmen, of any Pariſh, ſhould detect, or accuſe himſelf of any Fault inquired of in theſe Articles; nevertheleſs, the Faults of any one of them, may, and ought to be preſented by the Reſt. And if the Church-wardens or Sideſmen, neglect, or refuſe to do their Duty, the Miniſter of every Pariſh, (or in his Abſence, the Curate) may, and ought to preſent ſuch Things and Perſons as need Reformation; for aſmuch as they are chiefly concerned in and for the timely Repreſſion and Correction of all diſſolute and licentious Practices.

ARTICLES OF VISITATION.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches *and* Chapels; *the* Fabrick, Furniture, *and* Ornaments *thereunto belonging*.

I. IS your Pariſh Church or Chapel (as well the Chancel, as the Body thereof) in good and ſufficient Repair? 2. Are the Roofs well covered with Lead, Tile, Slate, or other proper Covering? 3. Are the Windows well glaz'd? 4. Are the Floors kept pav'd, plain and even? 5. Are the Seats well and conveniently plac'd? 6. Are all Things in general, ſo decently ordered and kept as becometh the Houſe of GOD?

II. Hath the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chapel, or any Part thereof, been taken down? 2. How long ſince, and upon what Occaſion was it done? 3. Have any of the Bells, Lead, or Materials thereunto belonging, been embezelled, ſold, or otherwiſe made away? Or do any of theſe ſtill remain in any private Hands? and in whoſe Hands do they remain?

III. Have you in your Church or Chapel, a Bible of the laſt Tranſlation, and of the largeſt Volume, together with a Common-Prayer Book of the ſame?

IV. Have you the Books of Homilies ſet forth by Authority? 2. Have you a printed Table hung up, of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. Is there in your Church or Chapel, a Font of Stone, ſet in the antient uſual Place, for the Adminiſtration of Baptiſm? 2. Is there a convenient and decent Table for the Celebration of the Holy Communion? 3. Is it covered in time of Divine Service with a Carpet of Silk, or other decent Stuff, and with a fair Linnen Cloth, at the Time of the Miniſtration of the Holy Sacrament? 4. Have you a fair Communion-Cup or Chalice, with Paten and Flagons, proper for that Service? 5. Are they kept only for this Uſe, and not employed to any other?

VI. Have you in your ſaid Church or Chapel, a convenient Seat or Pew, for your Miniſter to read Divine Service in; together with a comely and decent Pulpit for the Preaching of GOD's Word?

VII. Have you a large and fitting Surplice and Hood for the Miniſter to wear when he officiates in the Church, and eſpecially when he adminiſters the Holy Communion? And is the ſame Surplice duly waſh'd and repaired, at the Charge of the Pariſh?

VIII. Have you a Regiſter-Book of Parchment, wherein to enter the Day and Year of every Chriſtening, Wedding and Burial, within your Pariſh? 2. Are the Names of all Perſons Chriſtened, together with the Names and Sirnames of their Parents, and alſo the Names of all Perſons Married and Buried in the Pariſh the Week before, with the Day and Year of every ſuch Chriſtening, Marriage and Burial, duly entered into the ſaid Book? 3. For the ſafe keeping of the ſaid Book, have you a Coffer with three Locks and Keys; provided according to the Canon in that Behalf?

IX. Have you a Bier, with a black Hearſe-Cloth, for the Burial of your Dead?

X. Is your Church or Chapel kept free from all profane Uſes? 2. Are any Feaſts, Juries, Temporal Courts, Leets or Muſters, kept in your Church, Chapel, or Church-Yard?

XI. Are there any who refuſe to pay their Rates towards the Repair of the Church, and the Providing of ſuch Things as are neceſſary for the Service of Almighty GOD?

Tit. II. *Concerning the Church-Yard, and the Houſes, Glebe, Tythes, and other Dues belonging to the Church.*

XII. Is your Church-Yard ſufficiently feneed with Walls, Pales, or Rails; and is it kept decent and free from all Annoyances? 2. Do you know any Perſon who hath incroached upon the ſame, or made any Door into it, out of his own Ground, without Allowance from the Ordinary? 3. Hath any Trees growing therein been cut down, and by Whom, and for what Uſe?

XIII. Is the Houſe belonging to your Miniſter, together with all the Out-houſes thereunto appertaining, kept in good and ſufficient Repair? 2. Hath any part of the ſaid Houſe, or any of the ſaid Out-Houſes, been pulled down, or defaced, without Licence from the Ordinary? 3. Hath any Perſon, as you know of, incroached upon any Lands thereunto belonging? Or cut down any Trees growing thereon? Or moved the ancient Marks and Boundaries of the ſame?

XIV. Have any of the antient Glebe-Lands belonging to the Parſonage or Vicarage, or any Houſes or Out-Houſes, been taken away, or exchanged, without the Licence of the Ordinary, and free Conſent of the Incumbent? Have Incloſures been made in your Pariſh, to the Detriment of your Miniſter? and when was this done?

XV. Hath a Terrar of the ſaid Glebe-Lands, Houſes, *&c.* been duly taken, and brought in, according to the Canon of our Church, and the Uſage in this Dioceſe?

Tit. III. *Concerning the* Clergy.

XVI. Is your Miniſter a Perſon of ſober, unblameable, and exemplary Life?

XVII. Is he Reſident upon his Benefice; or, if not, hath he a Curate conſtantly Reſiding? 2. Doth he dwell in the Parſonage or Vicarage Houſe?

XVIII. Doth he read the whole Service of the Church, as preſcrib'd by the Book of Common-Prayer, diſtinctly and devoutly, without Omiſſion, or Alteration? Doth he alſo preach conſtantly every *Sunday*, unleſs hindered by Sickneſs, or other reaſonable Impediment?

XIX. Doth

XIX. Doth he adminiſter the Holy Sacrament at leaſt three Times a Year?

XX. Doth he diligently Catechize the Youth of your Pariſh, in the Church, upon *Sundays* or Holy-Days?

XXI. Is he careful in viſiting the Sick, and in preparing them for their Departure out of this Life?

TIT. IV. *Concerning the* PARISHIONERS.

XXII. Are there any in your Pariſh, who lie under a common Fame or vehement Suſpicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Inceſt?

XXIII. Are there in your Pariſh, any common Swearers, or Drunkards?

XXIV. Are there any who commonly abſent themſelves from Morning and Evening Service on the Lord's Day? 2. Are there any who behave themſelves diſorderly in the Church?

XXV. Are there any who follow their Callings, or ordinary Labour on the Lord's Day, or who compel or permit their Children or Servants ſo to do? 2. Are there any who keep open Shop, or ſuffer Perſons to tipple in their Houſes on the Lord's Day?

TIT. V. *Concerning* PARISH and CHURCH-OFFICERS.

XXVI. Are your Church-Wardens choſen every Year, in *Eaſter* Week, by the Miniſter and Pariſhioners, or one by the Miniſter, and the other by the Pariſhioners?

XXVII. Have the laſt Church-Wardens given a juſt Account to the Miniſter and Pariſhioners, and delivered up whatſoever Money or other Things do of Right belong to the Church or Pariſh?

TIT. VI. *Concerning Eccleſiaſtical* OFFICERS.

XXVIII. Hath any Officer, exerciſing Juriſdiction within this Dioceſe, demanded or taken undue or exceſſive Fees, for any Cauſe or Matter tranſacted by him?

XXIX. Hath

XXIX. Hath any of them ſuppreſſed or delayed the Proſecution of Perſons duly preſented by the Miniſter or Church-Wardens; or been guilty of any corrupt or illegal Practices, in the Conduct thereof? 2. Have ſuch of your Pariſhioners as have been convicted on Preſentments, been put to open Penance? 3. Or have any of them been diſmiſſed without Satisfaction given to your Pariſh, of Juſtice done for the Amendment of the Parties? 4. Hath any Eccleſiaſtical Judge commuted the Penance of ſuch Delinquents? 5. With what Perſons, in what Caſes, and for what Sums have ſuch Commutations been made? 6. And hath your Congregation been duly certify'd of the Application of the Sums ſo received for Commutations, unto ſuch pious and charitable Uſes, as the Law in thoſe Caſes directs?

TIT. VII. *Concerning* Hoſpitals, Alms-Houſes, Schools, *and* School-Maſters.

XXX. Is there any Hoſpital, Alms-Houſe, or Free-School founded in your Pariſh? 2. Are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the Intention of the Founder, and ſuch Ordinances and Statutes as have been made concerning the ſame?

XXXI. Doth any Perſon keep a public or private School in your Pariſh without Licenſe? 2. Is your School-Maſter a Perſon of regular Life, and ſober Converſation? 3. Doth he duly attend, and perform the Buſineſs of his Station? 4. Doth he teach his Scholars the Catechiſm ſet forth by Authority? 5. Doth he cauſe them orderly to repair to their Church or Chapel; and ſee that they behave themſelves quietly and reverently, during the Time of Divine Service and Sermon?

N.B. *The Biſhop will Confirm, in the Courſe of his Viſitation; and the Miniſter of each Pariſh is hereby required to give a Certificate under his Hand to every Perſon whom he preſents, teſtifying, that he has examined, and finds the ſaid Perſon qualified for* Confirmation.